Drinking Water scheme for Andhra Pradesh

281. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have requested for Centre's help for drinking water scheme:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to assist the State in eradicating drinking water problem in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for Rs. 100 crore as additional Central assistance for Rural Water Supply Programme.

(c) Rural Water Supply is a state subject, State Governments have been implementing Rural Water Supply Programmes under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government, through the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). During the year 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 9991.36 lakh was allocated to Andhra Pradesh under the ARWSP, out of wheih Rs. 9920.46 lakh has been released to the State. In addition to this, Rs. 9361.44 lakh has also been released to the State under the sub-mission projects, which constitutes 81.38% of the total funds released under the sub-mission to provide safe water in the quality affected habitations in the country for 1998-99.

Schemes for welfare of women and children

282. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for more welfare schemes for rural women and children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?"

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (c) No proposal is under consideration of this Ministry for a fresh welfare scheme for rural women and children in the country. However, in various schemes of this Ministry, there is a component for the benefit of women. Under the self-employment scheme, of IRDP and TRYSEM, 40% benefits are earmarked for women. The scheme of DWCRA aims at empowering women in *i* groups. Further, the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), is being implemented for the welfare of rural women.